

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Paul W. Watt

Serial No. : Art Unit:

Filed : Examiner:

For : METHODS FOR MAKING BIOPOLYMER SPONGE TUBES

Pre 1A
#5
NQB
11-1-01

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This patent application is division patent application based on USSN 09/164,793, filed October 1, 1998 now under appeal. The following amendments are requested to be entered.

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 3, please add:

"Related Patent Applications

a1 This patent application is a divisional patent application of USSN 09/164,793, filed October 1, 1998."

a2 In the claims, please cancel claims 1-25 and add new claims:

26. (New) A method for producing biopolymer sponges comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing an aqueous dispersion of the biopolymer;
- (b) introducing the dispersion into a mold;
- (c) freezing the dispersion to provide a shaped frozen dispersion;
- (d) heating the mold and releasing the shaped frozen dispersion from the mold;
- and
- (e) drying the released frozen dispersion.

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